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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Committee on Science and Technology
Fourth session
Bonn, 12-14 December 2000
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to the benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, and an assessment thereof, contained in the reports received from country Parties for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

6. Traditional knowledge.

7. Early warning systems.

8. Future work programme of the Committee.

9. Roster of independent experts.

10. Establishment, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.

11. Other matters.

12. Report on the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (decision 15/COP.1), the Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

Venue

3. Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Convention to Combat Desertification provides that the Committee on Science and Technology shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties. The fourth session of the Committee will therefore meet at the

Bundeshaus, Bonn, during the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties. Tentatively, the Committee has been scheduled to meet from 12 to 14 December 2000, with a possible extension to 15 December 2000.

Participants

4. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that sessions of the Committee will also be open to observers in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Documentation

5. Lists of the documents prepared for the Committee's third and fourth sessions are contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's Web site: http://www.unccd.int.

1. Opening of the session

6. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2), the Chairperson of the Committee shall be elected by the Conference from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in such a manner that every geographical region is fairly represented. This will occur at the opening meeting of the Conference on 11 December 2000. The fourth session of the Committee will then be opened on 12 December by the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons

7. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the Committee, the Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. Paragraph 6 of the terms of reference provides: "The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The Committee will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in paragraph 1 above, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of decision 16/COP.3. A tentative schedule of work is to be found in annex II.

New recommendations

9. Provision has been made in the Committee's schedule of work for the drafting of a report following discussion of the work of the Committee during the morning of

Thursday 14 December 2000, and for approving it in the afternoon of the same day. Any new recommendations could also be dealt with at the plenary meeting of the Conference on 15 December 2000.

4. Synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to the benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, and an assessment thereof, contained in the reports received from country Parties for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology

10. By decision 16/COP.2, the Conference endorsed the methodological framework for impact indicators proposed by the ad hoc panel and contained in documents ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1. By decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2 and 11/COP.3, Governments had been requested by the Conference to initiate testing of impact indicators and to report on the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the Conference at its third session. Reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee and the global mechanism consistent with their respective mandates, shall constitute the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference (decision 11/COP.1). The secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5 to facilitate consideration of the national reports of country Parties. The relevant information may thus be found in the national reports of the country Parties contained in documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 and ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1-4.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

11. By decision 13/COP.3, the Conference noted the contractual arrangements entered into by the Executive Secretary with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its behalf for the completion of phase one of the work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

12. By the same decision, the Conference, taking note of the interim report on phase one of the survey and evaluation, submitted by UNEP on behalf of its consortium of partners undertaking that phase, and recognizing the efforts made by UNEP and members of its consortium, decided:

(a) To support the realization of a second phase that would focus on the southern Africa subregion;

(b) To request the secretariat to draft the terms of reference for phase two of the survey and evaluation, based on the phase one report and the discussions in the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as possible further inputs from Parties on their expectations of phase two, to be sent to the secretariat no later than 31 December 1999;

(c) To request UNEP to submit an update to the above report on phase one, based on the discussions of the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session and written comments to be sent by the Parties no later than 31 December 1999 through the secretariat;

(d) To request the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, at its inter-sessional meeting, and after satisfactory consultation with the regional groups, to approve the terms of reference for phase two of the survey prepared by the secretariat;

(e) To authorize the secretariat to initiate the open tendering process for contractors to implement phase two of the survey and evaluation, and subsequently to enter into a contractual arrangement with the successful bidder.

13. Document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4 will be submitted to the Committee for review and any guidance that the Committee wishes to recommend to the Conference. The Committee will also be invited to give recommendations on the methodology to be followed for phases two and three of this work and on the region and subregions where phase two will be implemented.

6. Traditional knowledge

14. By decision 12/COP.3, the Conference appointed an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge composed of 10 experts to develop further appropriate criteria in line with future work on benchmarks and indicators, to be used by national focal points so as:

(a) To measure the reciprocity between traditional and modern knowledge and/or promote it;

(b) To assess how networks and mechanisms created by the secretariat (regional networks, regional coordinating bodies, national focal points) are incorporating traditional and local knowledge in their work programmes;

(c) To assess the socio-economic and ecological benefits of traditional knowledge in the light of environmental changes.

15. The ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge composed of 10 experts met in Matera, Italy, from 8 to 12 May 2000. Its report (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2) will be submitted to the Committee for review and for the adoption of any appropriate recommendations to the Conference.

7. Early warning systems

16. By decision 14/COP.3, the Conference of the Parties appointed an ad hoc panel composed of 10 experts with the following terms of reference: relating to early warning systems, to review and elaborate on the following technical topics emerging from national reports of Parties and regional forums on implementation of the Convention:

(a) Data collection, accessibility and integration;

(b) Evaluation and prediction of drought and desertification, and measures for preparedness, in cooperation with the follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(c) Dissemination of information to end-users on the applications of early warning systems and desertification monitoring and assessment, and strengthening of appropriate response mechanisms, particularly in the national action programmes to combat desertification.

17. By the same decision, the Conference invited the relevant institutions which have operational responsibilities in areas related to desertification and drought and information systems drawn from each thematic programme network in various regions to provide experts and/or reference materials in order to support the ad hoc panel.

18. By the same decision, the Conference also requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the functioning of the ad hoc panel.

19. The ad hoc panel composed of 10 experts met with experts from the relevant institutions which have operational responsibilities in areas related to desertification and drought and information systems drawn from each thematic programme network in various regions. This meeting took place in Bonn, Germany, from 31 May to 3 June 2000.

20. The report of the ad hoc panel (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4) will be submitted to the Committee. The Committee will be invited to consider that report, adopt any appropriate recommendations to the Conference and consider the panel's reappointment.

8. Future work programme of the Committee

21. The Committee may wish to consider what recommendation to give to the Conference with respect to the future work programme of the Committee, and may also wish to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in its terms of reference during the inter-sessional period.

9. Roster of independent experts

22. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the Conference is to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Consistent with decision 15/COP.3, the secretariat has maintained the roster, and its updated form is contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/6 and Add.1. The Committee may wish to review the roster, and make recommendations to the Conference regarding its composition and any guidance the Conference may wish to give to the secretariat as to its appropriate format.

10. Establishment, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels

23. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Conference may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The Committee may wish to consider recommending to the Conference the establishment of any ad hoc panels which may be required, including the reappointment of the panel on early warning systems referred to in paragraph 20 above.

11. Other matters

24. The Committee may wish to consider recommending to the Conference whether and how any other inter-sessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken.

12. Report on the session

25. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final meeting on the understanding that it will be completed after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairperson.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fourth session

ICCD/COP(4)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2	Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3/Add.1	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies for phase two (submitted by UNEP)
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4	Report by the ad hoc panel on early warning systems
ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5	Synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to the benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, and an assessment thereof, contained in the reports received from country Parties for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(4)/5	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(4)/5/Add.1	Roster of independent experts - Addendum

Third session

ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2	Synthesis of important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3	Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1	Linkage of the work of the Convention on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2	Synthesis of traditional knowledge on dry-land ecosystems

ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
CCD/COP(3)/CST/5	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee: potential area of cooperation between the Convention and other bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6	Report on existing experiences and specialized institutions in early warning systems

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tuesday 12 December 2000	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**3 p.m.-6 p.m.**
- Organization of work (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/1) - Establishment of a roster of experts (ICCD/COP(4)/5 and Add.1) - Survey and evaluation of networks (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3 and Add.1)	- Synthesis of scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to benchmarks and indicators, contained in the reports received from country Parties for consideration by the Committee (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5) and documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 and ICCD/COP(3)/3/Add.1-4
Wednesday 13 December 2000	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**3 p.m.-6 p.m.**
- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2)	- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4)
Thursday 14 December 2000	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**3 p.m.-6 p.m.**
- Establishment of ad hoc panel(s) - Drafting of the report to the Conference of the Parties	- Programme of work for the Committee - Adoption of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties
Friday 15 December 2000	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
To be determined	-

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